[Translation]

Foreign Investors

1996. SHRI JAI PRAKASH(Hardoi): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to deport the foreign investors who have invested in the Indian civil aviation service;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). A proposal to review the policy on domestic air transport services is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Asian Railway Project

1997. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bangladesh is not considering India transit facility to connect with the Asian highway and railway through Assam via Myanmar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this matter was discussed with the Bangladesh Government at any level;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Bangladesh thereto; and

(e) the manner in which the Government now comtemplate to go ahead with its participation in the Asian Railway Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e). Under the Asian Land Transport Infrsutructure Development Project, UN-ESCAP is considering to undertake a study to examine the feasibility of establishing a Railway Route in South Asia which would be passing through India, Bangladesh and Myanmar. While some preliminary information has been collected by UN-ESCAP, a full fledge study is yet to be undertaken.

[Translation]

Expenditure and Expansion of Agra Airport

1998. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on the renovation and expansion of the Agra Airport;

(b) the time by which the said work it likely to be completed;

(c) whether the Government propose to connect Agra to other Metropolitan cities of the country and abroad by air route in view of the expanded capacity of Agra Airport to ease the work load at Delhi Airport and the international importance of Agra in regard to Tourism;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether the Government received proposals for consideration for introducing flights via Agra from the Private Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) . The terminal building at Agra Airport is being modified and expanded to handle 500 passengers at a time at anestimated cost of Rs.10.8 crores. This work is likely to be completed in June, 1997.

(c) to (e) . Agra is already connected with Delhi, Khajuraho, Varanasi and Kathmandu. There is no proposal at present to allow scheduled services of foreigh airlines to touch Agra airport since Delhi airport which is being continuously modernised and expanded will be able to handle international services.

(f) At present, no private airline is operating to Agra.

[English]

Telephone Facility to Villages

1999. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No.121 on 18.7.1996, and state :

(a) whether the weekly reports from circle office in respect of new telephone facilities to the villages have been received;

(b) if so, the details and the number thereof; and

(c) the action taken on unsatisfactory reports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a)and (b). weekly reports from Circle Offices in repect of number of new telephone installed in the week are being taken regularly by DoT Headquarter on telephone on every Monday.

Detailed monthly reports are also taken from the Circle offices which are in printed from indicating the details of Village Public Telephones(VPTs) installed in the month. These reports indicate about the names of Base Stations, names of village received, Tehsils, districts and SSA areas.

(c) C.G.M. Telecommunications are reminded by letter as well as on telephone in case their progress is not satisfactory. They are being requested to gear up their installation programme.